

CLAIM LISTING

The following claim listing will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application.

1 - 11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The combination of claim 40 31, wherein the first surface is configured to slideably engage at least one blister of the blister package.

13. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 12, wherein the second surface is configured to slideably engage a seal portion of the blister package.

14. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 13, wherein the receiving channel is configured to allow insertion of at least one edge of the blister package.

15. (Previously presented) The combination of claim 14, wherein, when the blister package is engaged with the first and second surfaces and translated through the receiving channel, at least a portion of the blister package is at least partially severed by the cutting member.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The combination of claim 40 31 wherein the seal-cutting apparatus is held at the opening by cooperation between detents on the seal-cutting apparatus and slots in the container.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) The combination of claim ~~40~~ 31, wherein the seal-cutting apparatus further comprises:
an abutment structure including the first surface; and
a backstop structure including the second surface and a substantially planar third surface adjacent to the second surface, the third surface being generally parallel to the first surface and generally perpendicular to the second surface, the first surface being offset from, and recessed with respect to, the third surface.

21 (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 20, wherein the backstop structure comprises a recessed seating compartment for receiving the cutting member, the recessed seating compartment being defined in the third surface and opening to the second surface so that the cutting member, when received in the recessed seating compartment, is allowed to project from the second surface into the receiving channel.

22. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 21, wherein a cutting edge of the cutting member is disposed below the first surface of the abutment structure.

23 - 25. (Canceled)

26. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 20, wherein the abutment structure has a first height offset from a second height of the backstop structure such that the abutment structure and the backstop structure form a stepped structure.

27. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 20, wherein the abutment structure comprises a relief nick positioned along the edge of the first surface, the nick being disposed adjacent to a cutting edge of the cutting member.

28. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) The combination of claim ~~40~~ 31, wherein the blister package comprises a blister, a flanged edge and an underside, and the seal-cutting apparatus further comprises:
an abutment structure having the first surface; and
a backstop structure having the second surface,
wherein the seal-cutting apparatus is configured to at least partially sever the blister package when the blister package is translated through the receiving channel and at least partially past the cutting member.

29. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 28, wherein the cutting member is disposed with respect to the first surface such that when the blister of the blister package is brought into abutment with the first surface, the first surface helps to position a perimeter of the blister to be close to a cutting edge of the cutting member.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A combination comprising a container, a blister package received in the container and a seal-cutting apparatus, the seal-cutting apparatus comprising:
a receiving channel, the channel being at least partially defined by an edge of a substantially planar first surface and a substantially planar second surface, wherein the first surface is substantially perpendicular to the second surface; and
a cutting member located at the second surface and extending toward the first surface;

wherein the seal-cutting apparatus is held in the container at an opening defined in the container such that the opening is entirely closed by the seal-cutting apparatus. ~~The combination of claim 10,~~ wherein the cutting member is disposed inside the container such that the cutting member is accessible from an outside of the container through the opening.

32. (Currently amended) The combination of claim 40 ~~31~~, wherein the opening is dimensioned such that no substantial portion of the seal-cutting apparatus is exposed through the opening except for the receiving channel, the first and second surfaces and the cutting member.

33. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) The combination of claim 40 ~~31~~, wherein the seal-cutting apparatus is attached to the container so that the seal-cutting apparatus is not removable from the container.

34. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) The combination of claim 40 ~~31~~, wherein the seal-cutting apparatus further comprises a substantially planar third surface adjacent to the second surface, the third surface being disposed at a substantially higher elevation than the first surface so that first surface is offset from, and recessed with respect to, the third surface, wherein the container includes a first wall disposed along the third surface, the opening is defined at least in part in the first wall, and the cutting member is disposed below the first wall.

35. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 34, wherein the seal-cutting device further comprises a substantially planar fourth surface adjacent to the first surface so that the second surface is offset from, and recessed with respect to, the fourth surface, the container includes a second wall disposed along the fourth surface, the opening is defined in part in the second wall, and the cutting member is disposed inwardly of the second wall.

36. (Currently amended) The combination of claim ~~40~~ 31, wherein the opening is elongate, and the receiving channel is disposed in the opening such that the receiving channel extends along the opening.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)